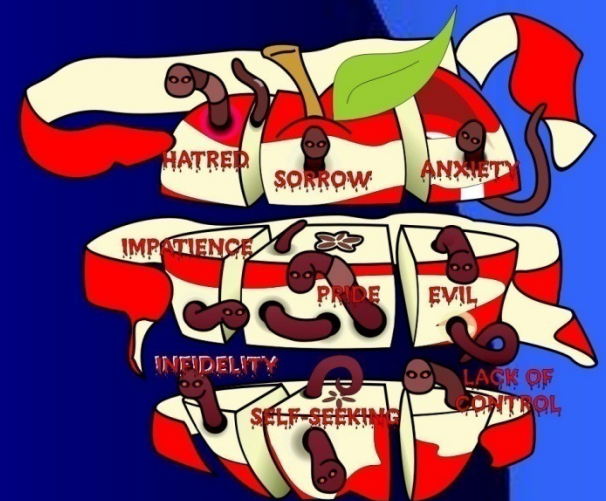


You Are What You Think
Your Mind Produces Change in Character



Tim Keller Quotes

“The gospel says you are more sinful and flawed than you ever dared believe, but more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope.”

“Sometimes I don’t feel loved, but I know somebody as amazing as Jesus, who was willing to die for me, that he loves me no matter what.”

“Remembering God’s past love is the only way to face present stress with confidence and peace.”

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain

Psalm 127:1

Essentials.

G

One
Sovereign
Creator

J

Resurrected
God-Man
Christ

Sp

Holy
Indwelling
Life-Giver

Gr

Free
By Faith
Salvation

Ch

The Body
Local
Awaiting

Ad

2nd Coming
Judgement
Restoration

Ev

Missional
Obedience
Discipleship

In Essentials, Unity.



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The Fruit of the Spirit: Study Outline

Overview: The Basics and Doctrinal Positions

Prologue: Formula & Recipe for Fruit Production



Unit I: The Fruit and the Tree
The Fruit and its Cultivation
The Fruit and the Weeds

Unit II: Godward (Love → Joy → Peace)
Manward (Patience → Kindness → Goodness)
Selfward (Faithfulness → Gentleness → Self-Control)

Unit III: The Fruit and God
The Fruit and Others
The Fruit and Ourselves



God Created the Soul!

Mind + Heart = Soul/Spirit

Matthew 22:37

Only _____ infusion of the _____

will produce intense affections of heart and mind



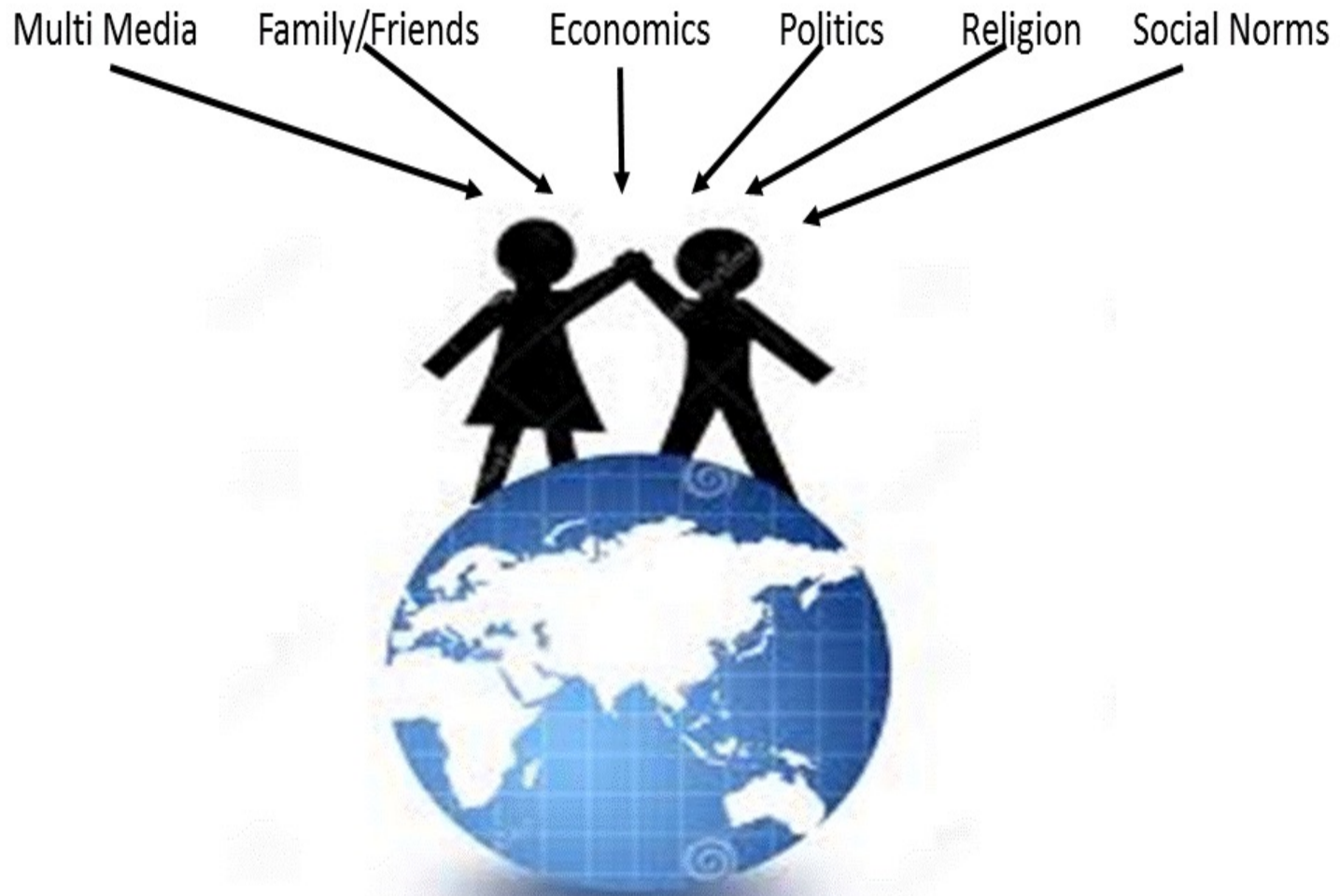
God's Orchard: The Fruit of the Spirit
Becoming the Person God Wants You to Be
Galatians Teachings

Central Scriptures of the Study:

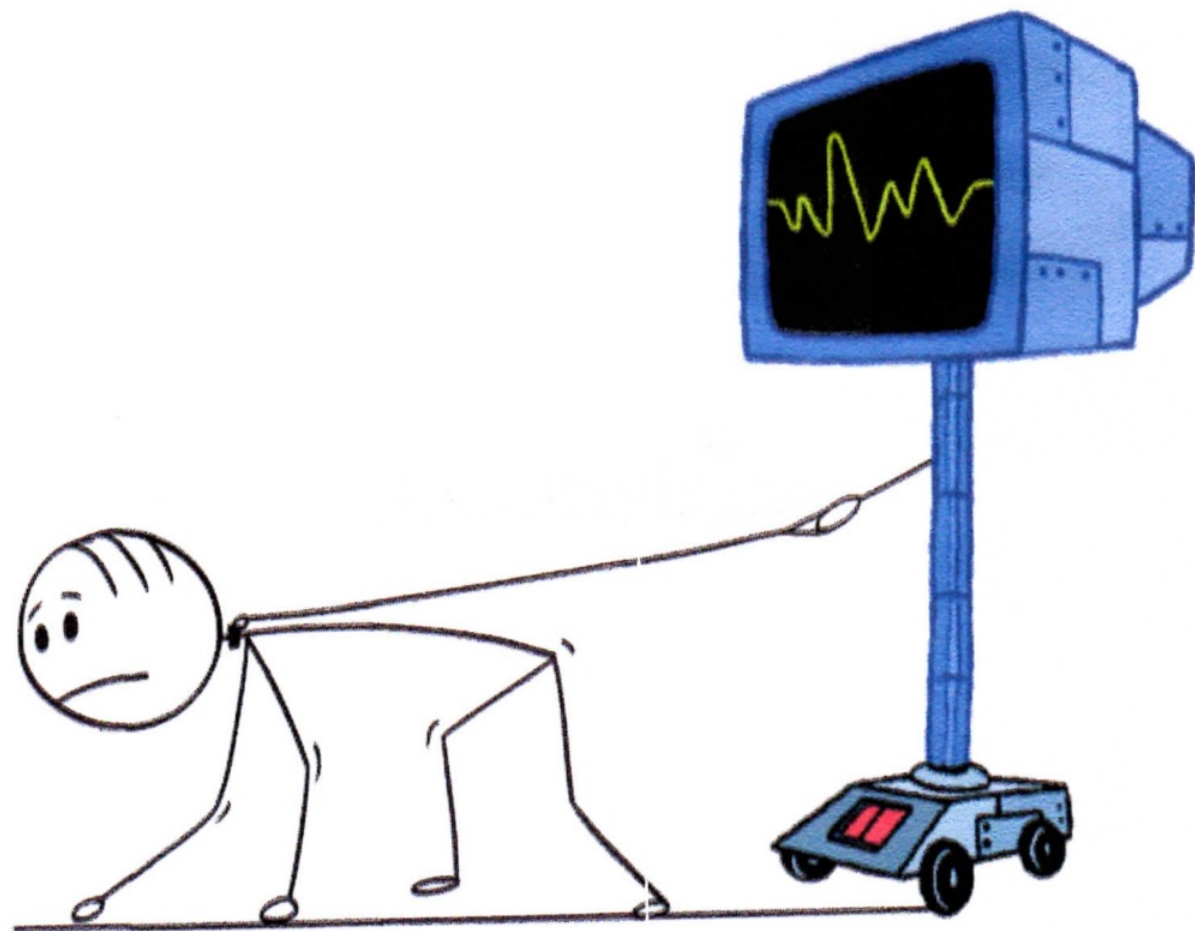
**“I am the Lord your God.....You shall have
no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:2-3**

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matt. 22:37**

Battle for the Mind









Fruit Production Recipe

Think Eternally

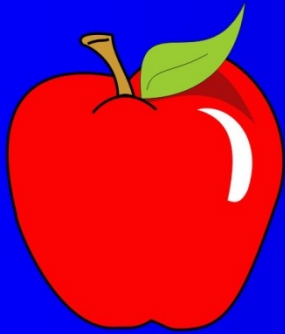
Be steadfast in service

Pursue God continually

Remember – You are a Child of the King



For You, O God, tested us; you refined
us like [gold]. Psalm 66:10



The Fruit of the Spirit

Unit I

The Fruit and the Tree

The Fruit and Its Cultivation

The Fruit and the Weeds

The Fruit and the Tree



“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the ways of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.....He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.” Psalm 1

God is the TreeWe are the Branches



Some Preparatory Thoughts...on the Tree

Healthy Human Life is Fruitful Life

The Model for Fruitfulness is God

“Be fruitful and multiply” Genesis 1:28, Matt. 28:18-20

**Christian character arises from “participation in the divine nature”
and is the work of the Holy Spirit II Peter 1:3-4**

**Christian spiritual formation is not simply fostering the experience
of the Spirit, but rather a radical formation, a shaping and molding
of the believer into conformity with Christ through the Spirit**



**For You, O God, tested us; you refined
us like [gold]. Isaiah 45:9; Psalm 66:10**

Some Preparatory Thoughts...on the Tree (cont.)

Sinclair Ferguson writes that the fruit of the Spirit

“should be distinguished from the gifts of the Spirit,
but ought never to be absent in their exercise.

For without love, and the humility which accompanies it
....the purpose of the gifts* of the Spirit is thwarted.”

* I Cor. 12:1-11

The Tree is the Foundation of Grace

Cause & Effect Relationship between Grace and Works

Under
Grace

Faith → Love → Works of the Fruit of Spirit
(Galatians 5:6, 14, 22, 23)

Versus

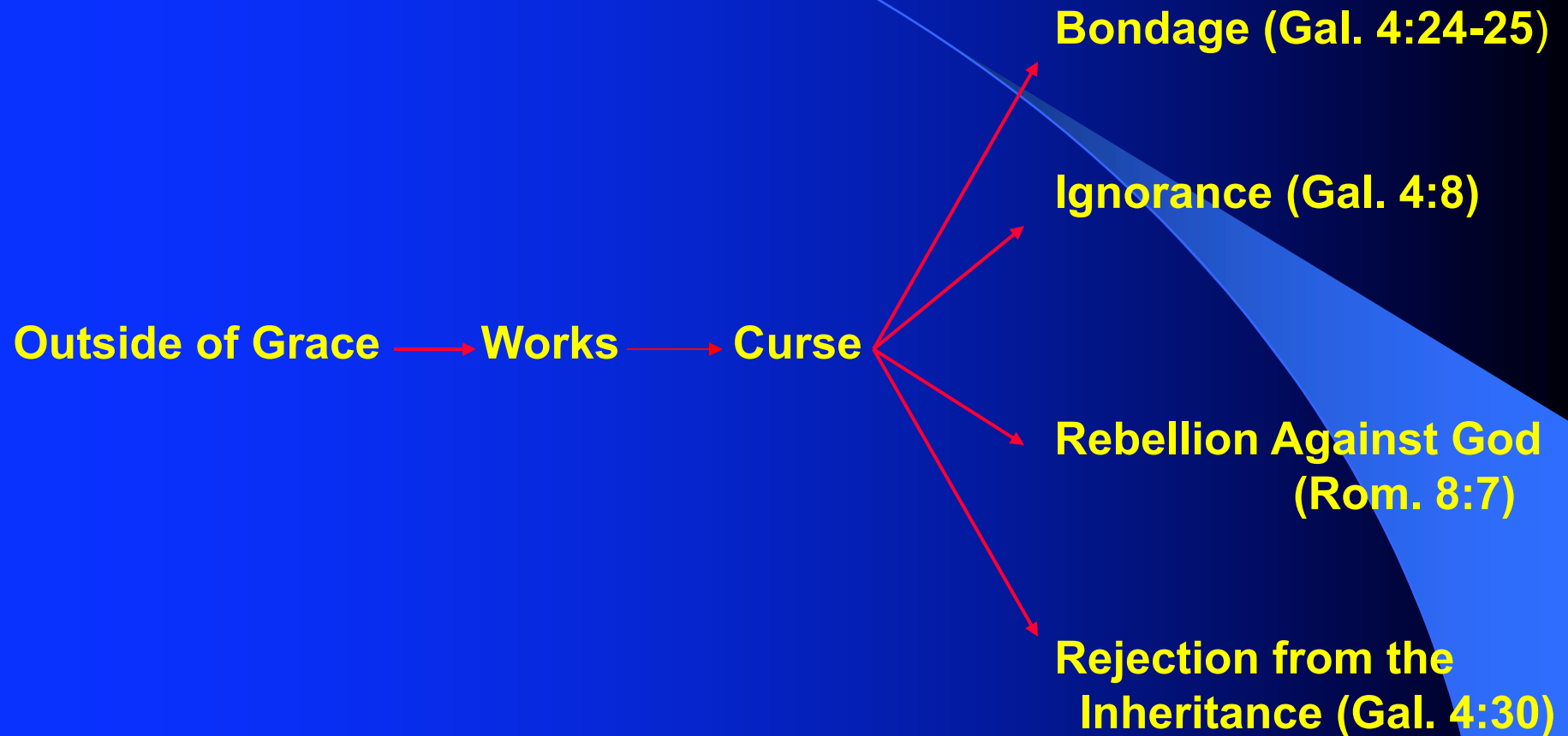
Outside
of
Grace

Works → Curse → Bondage → Works of the Flesh
(Galatians 4:24, 5:19-21)

Personal Conduct Stems from a Right Personal Relationship with Christ

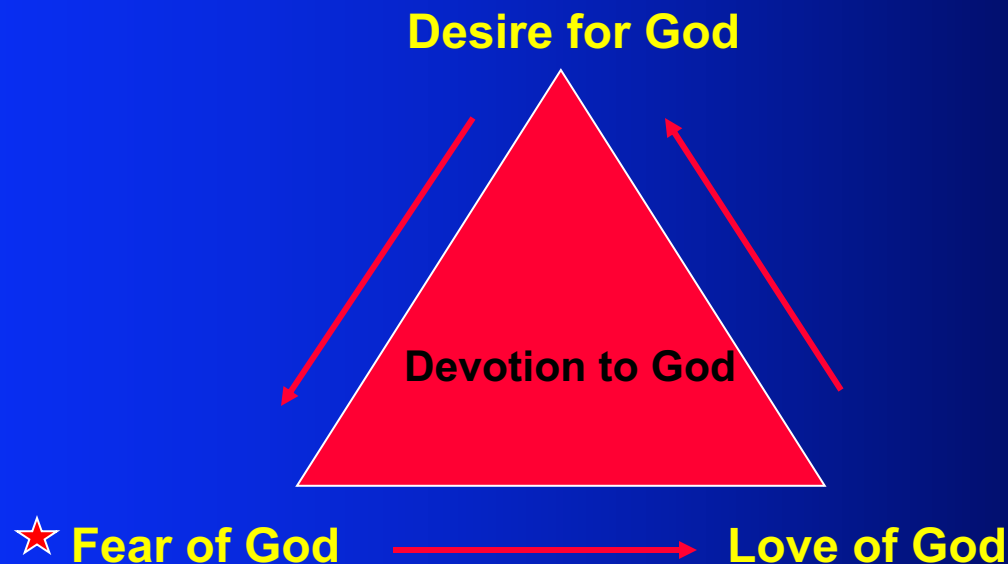


..... and if the relationship is not right, conduct can only be evil



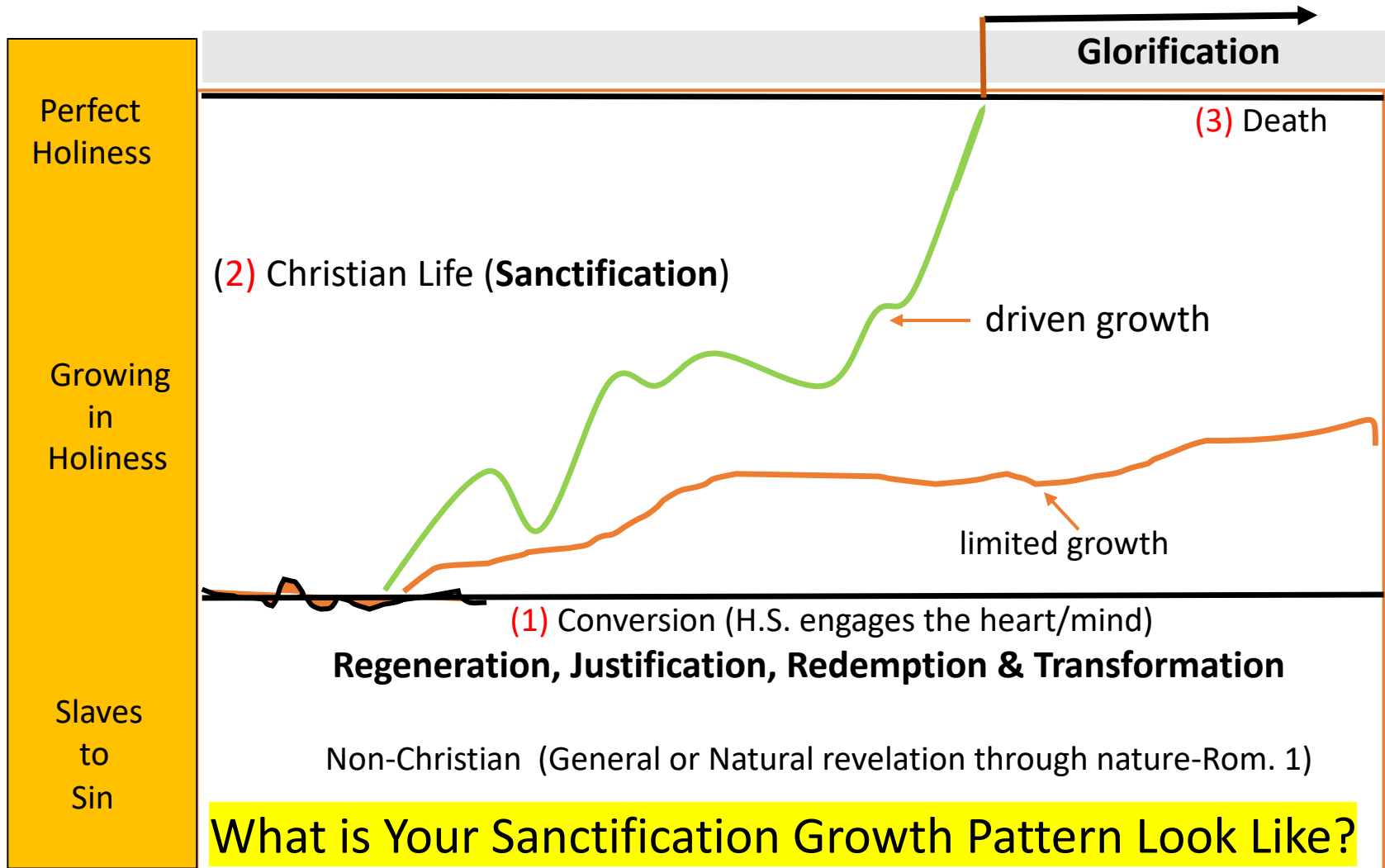
Devotion is the only motivation for Christian behavior that is pleasing to God

Philippians 3:10 - “[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him – That I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding [the wonders of His person] more strongly and more clearly



★ Review Proverbs 8:13, 9:10; Philippians 2:12-13

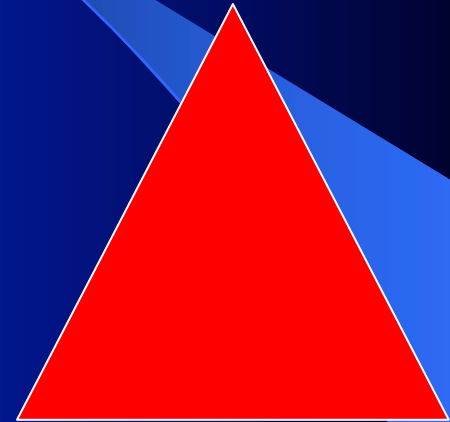
$$\text{Mind} + \text{Heart/Will} = \text{Soul}$$



Devotion is the only motivation for Christian behavior that is pleasing to God

I John 4:8 – “God is Love

How much we appreciate God’s love is conditioned by how deeply we fear Him. The more we see God in His infinite majesty, holiness and transcendent glory, the more we will gaze with a wonder upon His love poured out at Calvary



Fear of God → Love of God

Devotion to God → Humility → Fruit

**“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:14**

**“The mind that we have in union with Christ and in the fellowship of the
Spirit is to be the mindset we exercise with respect to one another, counting
each other of greater importance than we count ourselves.”**

Sinclair Ferguson

...for without humility we cannot hope to cultivate the rest of the fruit

Devotion to God → Humility → Fruit

Isaiah 57:15 – For this is what the high and lofty One says – he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Psalm 139: 14-17 – David is speaking when he says” I am fearfully and wonderfully made....My frame was not hidden from you when I was made.....your eyes saw my unformed body.....how precious are your thoughts, O God!

**Every ability, advantage, spiritual gift comes from God
so that we might glorify Him**

A Thirst for God



“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I meet with God?” Psalm 42: 1-2

Questions & Assignments

Why is devotion to God the only acceptable motive for actions that please Him?

Who or what has dominated your thoughts over the past day? Why is that?

How can you cultivate a healthy fear of God? Why should you fear God?

Pray Psalm 119:33-37. Spend time over it, and ask God to show you areas of your life in which you need to set aside dependence upon your own wisdom and strength of character and draw all that you need from Christ through faith in Him.

Choose one of these passages for meditation:

Isaiah 6:1-7 (the fear of God)

Romans 8:31-39 (the love of God)

Psalm 63:1-3 (the desire for God)

The Fruit and its Cultivation



Psalm 1: The man who trusts in God will be like a tree planted by streams of water. The tree produces fruit at its appointed time, and its leaf does not wither either.

Whatever the man does will prosper. But the wicked are not like a tree, but are like chaff which the wind blows away.”



Short Life

The Wicked & the Righteous

Psalm 92



Long Life

“When the wicked spring up like grass, and when all the workers of iniquity flourish, they will be destroyed for ever.....”

The righteous will flourish like the palm tree. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bring forth fruit in old age; and will be full of sap and green. These things will demonstrate that the Lord is upright.....”

“The man who delights in and meditates on God’s Word.....”

The man who trusts in God..... the man who has been enlightened by God.....shall always bear fruit.”

Devotion to the Tree Produces Eternal Fruit



You and I represent the branches

Fruit is the result of a work performed in man's being by an immediate operation of God, and there is no other way to get fruit

Jesus will always produce good fruit

“He that abides in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit.” John 15:5

A branch has one purpose ...to produce fruit....

Jesus is the gardener

Jesus Christ represents the tree trunk,
roots and soil

Questions & Assignments

Think of many small groups devoted to Bible study. Why do they differ from each other so drastically?

What motivation do you require so that you will “hunger and thirst after righteousness”?

Journal your thoughts and actions during the next week, looking for situations in which you were tempted to act in a self-centered way instead of putting others before yourself. What did you do in each case? What do you observe about yourself?

Pray for sensitivity to see yourself as God does. Confess any self-centered ways. Pray for grace to change.

The Fruit and the Weeds



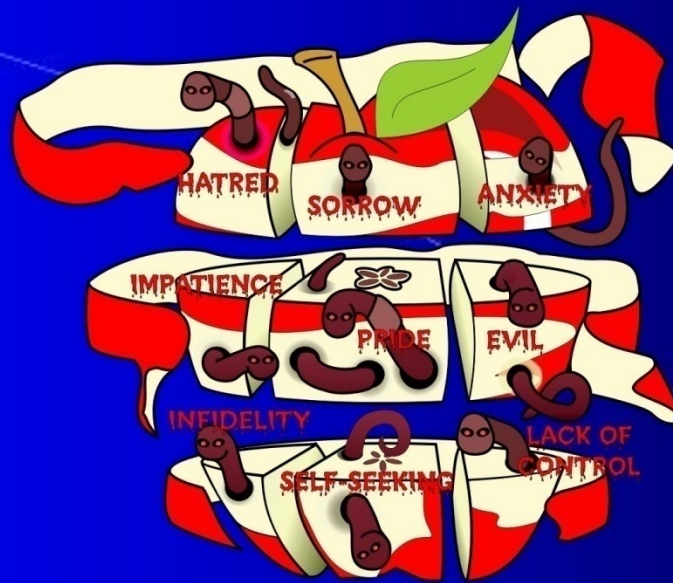
The Fruit and the Weeds

Jeremiah said that “living apart from God is to be like worthless desert plants.” Jeremiah 17:6

The Holy Spirit’s action is to “root out the weeds” and to water and fertilize the plants

Satan’s tactic is to give some people so light a case of Christianity that they will never get the real thing

Satan sometimes produces artificial fruit, bogus and carnal, confusing people into thinking that they have the real fruit



The Weed

The Artificial Fruit

Fruit of Spirit

hatred	limited love	love
sorrow	temporary joy	joy
anxiety	carelessness	peace
impatience	insensitivity	patience
pride	manipulation by kindness	kindness
evil	hypocrisy	goodness
infidelity	half-heartedness	faithfulness
self-seeking	false modesty	gentleness
lack of control	choosing lesser goods	self-control

Questions & Assignments

If Paul were writing in the twenty-first century, do you think he would have any reason to add to or subtract from the list of “works of the flesh”?

Are all of the weeds equally bad, or are some worse than others? What makes one sin “more heinous” than others?